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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 26 October 2001 at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Han Seung-soo (Republic of Korea)

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01-60430 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly and organization of work (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by a number of Member States (A/56/231)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to consider a request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, 2002". The representative of Egypt had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Roshdy (Egypt) took a place at the Committee table.*

3. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt), also speaking on behalf of Canada, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, the Russian Federation, Spain and Uruguay, the sponsors of the request, said that the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), which had been ratified by 164 States Parties, covered 690 world cultural and natural heritage sites. It had heightened an awareness of the cultural and economic importance of protecting and enhancing those sites. Tangible support had come from several international organizations, non-governmental organizations and financial institutions, as well as from the public and private sectors. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) believed that safeguarding a common tangible and intangible heritage for all humankind, regardless of its geographical position, would facilitate a drive for change, openness and progress.

4. If 2002 were to be proclaimed United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, that would coincide with the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. Furthermore it would lend greater impetus to all heritage-related activities and serve to mobilize international support for them. A common living heritage would contribute to the economic and social development of local populations and reinforce exchanges. Increased technical and financial support for the world heritage would also help to fight poverty and build peace.

5. **Mr. Herasymenko** (Ukraine), **Mr. Hussein** (Ethiopia) and **Mr. Ouch** (Cambodia) announced that their Governments wished to become additional sponsors of the request.

6. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be included in the agenda and that it should be considered directly in the plenary meeting.*

7. *Mr. Roshdy (Egypt) withdrew.*

The meeting rose at 9.45 a.m.